

GREAT NECK/ NORTH SHORE CABLE COMMISSION
1111 Marcus Avenue, Ste LL27
Lake Success, NY 11042

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable)	MB Docket No. 05-311
Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended)	
by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and)	
Competition Act of 1992)	

COMMENTS OF THE GREAT NECK/ NORTH SHORE CABLE COMMISSION

The Great Neck/North Shore Cable Commission (GNNSCC) appreciates the opportunity to file comments on the Second Further Notice and Proposed Rule-making (“FNPRM”) in the above-referenced docket. The Great Neck/North Shore Cable Commission represents 15 local communities (Village of Great Neck, Village of Great Neck Estates, Village of Great Neck Plaza, Village of Thomaston, Village of Kensington, Village of Kings Point, Village of Lake Success, Village of Saddle Rock, Village of Russell Gardens, Village of North Hills, Village of Flower Hill, Village of Munsey Park, Village of Plandome Heights, Village of Plandome Manor and the Village of Plandome), with the purpose of negotiating, facilitating and supervising agreements with cable service providers. The GNNSCC combined area serves over 17,500 subscribers.

Our community Public Access Television Station has received numerous awards including two New York Emmy nominations. These awards speak to PATV's exemplary outreach to and representation of the community.

We strongly oppose the tentative conclusion in the FNPRM that cable-related in-kind contributions, such as those that allow programming to be viewed on the cable system, are franchise fees.

The reduction of franchise fees will undoubtedly put the local Public Access Station out of business, not to mention hundreds if not thousands of other PEG stations across the nation. The value of PATV non-commercial programming is that it offers viewers localism, diversity of viewpoints, civic engagement, dialogue, and discussion of issues that can not be seen on any other channel.

We reject the implication in the FNPRM that PEG programming is for the benefit of the local franchising authority (LFA) or a third-party PEG provider, rather than for the public or the cable consumer. As demonstrated above, *The Public Access Television Corporation provides valuable local programming that is not otherwise available on the cable system or in other modes of video delivery such as satellite.* Yet the Commission tentatively concludes that non-capital PEG requirements should be considered franchise fees because they are, in essence, taxes imposed for the benefit of LFAs or their designated PEG providers. By contrast, the FNPRM tentatively concludes that build-out requirements are not franchise fees because they are not contributions to the franchising authority. The FNPRM then requests comment on “other requirements besides build-out obligations that are not specifically for the use or benefit of the LFA or an entity designated the LFA and therefore should not be considered contributions to an LFA. PEG programming fits squarely into the category of benefits that do not accrue to the LFA or its designated access provider, yet the Commission concludes without any discussion of the public benefits of local programming that non-capital PEG-related provisions benefit the LFA or its designee rather than the public at large.

We invite the Commission to view for themselves the important benefits provided by local content in PEG programming. The links below are videos that highlight the programming they provide as a service to the community - US Congress Candidate Forum, Gun Violence Prevention Forum presented by Assemblyman Tony D'Urso, A message from a local rabbi in response to the recent shootings in a Pittsburgh synagogue and one of our town Memorial Day Parades.

CANDIDATES' NIGHT- Thomas Suozzi - Dan DeBono, US Congress, District 3

<https://youtu.be/cELBVHTLY4>

Preventing Gun Violence in our Communities - Great Neck Library 2018

<https://youtu.be/xrXdwDOLj84>

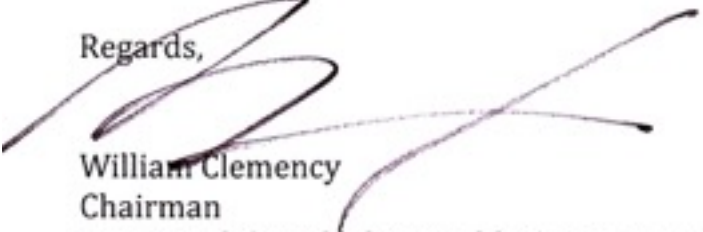
“In Response to Pittsburgh”: Msg from Rabbi Klayman, Lake Success Jewish Center

<https://youtu.be/64LfjJ31xek>

Manhasset Memorial Day Parade 2018

<https://youtu.be/xqST4ou1KV8>

We appreciate the opportunity to add to the record in this proceeding.

Regards,

William Clemency
Chairman
Great Neck/North Shore Cable Commission

11/5/18